

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-05 EB-07 FEAE-00 IO-10 SAB-01

SSO-00 (ISO) W

----- 085261

R 291317Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2096

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

COMIDEASTFOR

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0473

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, BA

SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN KUWAIT PRESS ON BAHRAIN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
DEBATE ON MIDEAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN

REF: MANAMA 107

1. KUWAIT DAILY, AL QABAS, CARRIED MORE THAN HALF PAGE ARTICLE
JAN 27 ON BAHRAIN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE THIS SUBJECT, IN WHICH
MAJOR ATTENTION GIVEN TO SPECIFIC ARGUMENTS PRESENTED BY GOVT AND
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OPPOSITION. WRITTEN BY STAFFER YAHYA HAMZI, WHO VISITED BAHRAIN

FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND TOLD US HE SAW TOP GOB OFFICIALS AND MP'S. STORY ACCOMPANIED PHOTOS OF FOREIGN MINISTER, SHAIT MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA AND FIVE OTHER MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY. BELOW IS FULL SUMMARY.

2. ARTICLE HEADLINE: "NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN BAHRAIN. AL QABAS PUBLISHES DETAILS OF SECRET SESSION ON AGREEMENT FOR AMERICAN NAVY FACILITIES." LEAD SAYS THAT SIX MP'S (NAMED) RAISED QUESTION AND SURPRISINGLY GOVT AGREED TO IMMEDIATE DISCUSSION. MAJORITY VOTED THAT SESSION BE SECRET.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER PRESENTED GOVT CASE AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) AGREEMENT DOES NOT CONCERN BASE BUT ONLY FACILITIES TO SUPPLY AND FUEL ONE USN SHIP. (B) AGREEMENT NOT INJURIOUS TO BAHRAIN'S INTERESTS, BUT RATHER FOSTERS BENEFICIAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. U.S. RELATIONS WITH BAHRAIN AND MOST OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES ARE GOOD. (C) PRIOR TO MAKING ACCORD, BAHRAIN CONSULTED ARAB AND GULF STATES. SOME LIKE SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT SUPPORTED. OTHERS LIKE KUWAIT, UAE AND QATAR HAD NO OBJECTION. (D) BAHRAIN GETS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES. U.S. IS RAISING RENT FROM \$650,000 TO \$4 MILLION. INVESTMENT OF AMERICAN COMPANIES IN BAHRAIN REQUIRES GOOD MUTUAL RELATIONS, AND THESE DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON CONTINUATION OF AGREEMENT. CANCELLING OF AGREEMENT WOULD HEIGHTEN U.S. THREATS AGAINST OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES, BECAUSE COULD DRIVE U.S. TO TAKE MORE MANACING STANCE AGAINST ARAB NATIONAL INTERESTS.

4. OPPOSITION RESPONDED PRESENTING FOLLOWING ARGUMENTS. (A) U.S. STILL HOSTILE TO ARABS THROUGH ITS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL. SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED FROM WHEN GOVT DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO END THIS AGREEMENT. STATED ECONOMIC BENEFITS ARE FABRICATION. (B) AGREE-
MENT VIOLATES BAHRAIN'S NON-ALIGNED AND NON-INTERVENTIONIST POLICY. WHAT GUARANTEE EXISTS AGAINST ISRAEL EXPLOITING THIS USN PRESENCE IN GULF? (C) USN PRESENCE CAN BE DIRECT THREAT TO BAHRAIN'S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SECURITY. WHAT PROOF IS THERE THAT IT IS NOT U.S. ESPIONAGE CENTER IN AREA? (D) U.S. BASE ACCORDS IN OTHER PLACES REST ON MUTUAL ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY INTERESTS WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM SITUATION IN ARAB WORLD. (E) ISSUE IS NOT JUST ONE SHIP, AS ARTICLE ONE ALLOWS SUPPORT PLANES AND SHIPS TO USE BAHRAINI PORTS, AIRPORTS AND WATERS WITH COMPLETE FREEDOM. GOVT REPLIED THAT THIS RELATES UNCLASSIFIED

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ONLY TO ADMIRAL'S PLANE, SUPPLY PLANE AND HOSPITAL PLANE. (F) LEGALLY, MATTER IS NOT JUST EXCHANGE OF NOTES, BUT RATHER AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS. GOVT INTERPOSED THAT ISSUE NOT PUT BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AS OCCURRED BEFORE ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHED.

5. ARTICLE ENDS BY SAYING THAT DEBATE LASTED FOUR HOURS, AT END OF WHICH IT WAS PROPOSED THAT VOTE BE TAKEN TO FORMALIZE AGREEMENT,

BUT SPEAKER REJECTED THIS MOVE SAYING THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED
TO CONCERNED SUB-COMMITTEE FOR STUDY BEFORE ANY FURTHER ACTION.

6. CLIPPING OF ARTICLE SENT TO EMBASSY MANAMA.
STOLTZFUS

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